

Appl. No. 09/578,612
Amdt. Dated December 29, 2003
Reply to Office Action of November 28, 2003

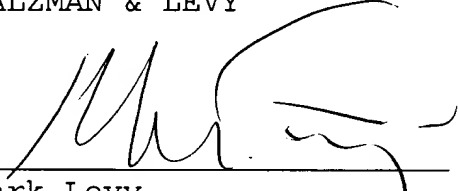
REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the above-identified patent application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks. Claims 1 - 26 have been canceled. Claims 27 - 40 have been added. No new matter has been added.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that claims 27 - 40 be allowed and a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

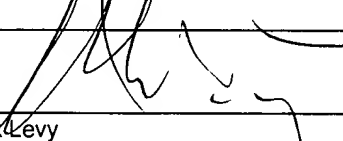
Respectfully submitted,
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